FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

25 SEPTEMBER 1985

Palestinian Affairs

Two Palestinian gunmen captured an Israeli yacht in Larnaca marina 25 September, killing a woman on board and taking two men hostage, Nicosia radio announced, adding that the area has been cordoned off by police and security forces. The PLO office in Nicosia denied that the organization has any connection with the attack, the radio noted. In a related report, Athens radio said the gunmen are demanding to be provided with a plane so that they can leave Cyprus with their hostages.

Lebanon

The Syrian Army clashed with Islamic Unification Movement gunmen in Tripoli 24 September after the latter checked the advance of a Syrian unit into the southern part of the city, Voice of Lebanon radio reported, adding that the Unification Movement was violating agreements to collect weapons and cease fire. A Unification Movement military official cited by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon denied that a "serious" cease-fire agreement had been reached and stressed that his side will not hand over its weapons before all Syrian forces withdraw from the city. About 250,000 of Tripoli's 700,000 residents have now abandoned their homes because of the fighting, according to Beirut radio.

Beirut radio broadcast statements by the Amal Movement and the higher Islamic Shi'ite Council expressing support for the Islamic Grouping's call for a general strike in Beirut's western sector 27 September.

Tunisia-Libya

The Tunisian people will foil all of Libya's conspiracies and will defeat every aggression, Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali said in remarks reported by Tunis radio. Meanwhile, a Tunisian source told KUNA that the Tunisian Army is on maximum alert to resist any possible Libyan militaryattack. In a related development, the Tunisian Foreign Ministry summoned the Libyan high commissioner to protest four Libyan aircraft violating Tunisian airspace 23 September, Tunis radio disclosed.

Libya-USSR

A Soviet-Libyan protocol on agricultural cooperation was signed in Tripoli, TASS reported.

Egypt-United States

While cautioning that the meeting between Presidents Husni Mubarak and Ronald Reagan in Washington will not produce immediate results, Cairo radio noted "encouraging signs" regarding the start of U.S. moves to promote Middle East peace efforts.

Iran

Iran is training special forces for use in operations to close the Strait of Hormuz, the clandestine Radio Najat-e Iran reported.

DRA-Pakistan

Pakistan summoned the Afghan charge d'affaires and rejected a DRA protest that Pakistani Armed Forces attacked the southern areas of Khowst 6-8 September, Karachi radio reported.

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Mujahidin Shoot Down Soviet Transport
GF231626 Mashhad International Service in Dari 1430 GMT 23 Sep 85

[Text] The Muslim Afghan revolutionaries last Tuesday [17 September] shot down a transport aircraft of the occupying Soviet forces south of Kabul with a rocket attack and killed all 26 occupants of the aircraft. According to news agency reports, eyewitness accounts say that the Soviet transport aircraft, which was en route to Paktia Province, was carrying a large consignment of war materiel.

Meanwhile, reports from Afghanistan say that an attack by joint Karmal-Soviet forces on Afghan Muslim revolutionaries in Paktia Province met with resistance and was destined to be defeated. According to news agency reports, this attack was launched by 30,000 men of the occupying Soviet forces and the Karmal regime.

AFP: Diplomats Say 14 Dead in Khalq, Parcham Clashes
HK250047 Hong Kong AFP in English 1110 GMT 24 Sep 85

[Text] Islamabad, Sept 24 (AFP) — Gun battles between Afghanistan's two main communist factions left 14 people dead earlier this month in Kabul, Western diplomatic sources said today, citing a number of sources.

The fighting between the Khalq, or People's, faction and the Parcham, or Flag, group, took place September 10 in several sections of Kabul, the sources said. Some of the clashes reportedly took place near the presidential palace, they added. There were no details on the causes of the clashes.

The fighting was the latest sign of discord between the two factions, which have long fought for power in Kabul. President Babrak Karmal's Parcham faction is thought to be weaker than the Khalq group, which has strong support within the Army. But Mr. Karmal, who replaced a Khalq member, Hafizullah Amin, has retained the presidency because of the support of the Soviet Union, which effectively installed him in December 1979.

The diplomatic sources also reported the following other developments in Afghanistan:

Last Saturday, a Soviet-Afghan Army ammunition depot blew up, causing a fire that lasted for several hours. The sources said the cause of the fire was not known.

Last week, Soviet troops ambushed two groups of Afghan rebels about 20 km (12 miles) north of Kabul, causing an undetermined number of casualties. The diplomats also reported fighting west of the capital.

On September 15, a higher officer identified as Lieutenant General Ba Jan Khan Waziri was killed in Kabul by unidentified assailants. The sources said that General Khan Waziri, whose funeral was announced by Radio Kabul on September 21, had "considerable" importance in the Afghan military.

Gandhi Reshuffles Cabinet, Assumes Defense Portfolio

HK250758 Hong Kong AFP in English 0716 GMT 25 Sep 85

[Text] New Delhi, Sept 25 (AFP) — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi today announced a major cabinet reshuffle, in which he shed the foreign affairs portfolio and assumed the post of defence minister.

Mr. Gandhi inducted 15 new ministers and dropped six of his former colleagues, including two with full cabinet rank in a shakeup of his nine-month-old cabinet, which analysts said brought important changes among the men entrusted with India's diplomacy.

Baliram Bhagat, 63-year-old former speaker of Parliament, becomes foreign minister with cabinet rank, relieving the premier of the foreign affairs portfolio he has held since December's elections.

The new secretary of state for foreign affairs replacing Khurshid Alam Khan, will be M.K.R. Narayanan, planning minister in the previous cabinet and a career diplomat who has been India's ambassador in Washington and Beijing.

Mr. Gandhi also relinquished the portfolio of energy which he had hitherto held along with foreign affairs. The new energy minister is Vasant Sathe, who was shifted from steel, mines and coal.

But the prime minister is to take over the defence portfolio from M. V. Narasimha Rao, who has now been given a new portfolio, human resources development.

The newcomers were shorn in by President Giani Zail Singh at a hastily-arranged ceremony at the presidental palace. The entrants bring the total strength or Mr. Gandhi's government, set up on December 31 soon after the massive election victory of his Congress Party, to 53.

The ministers dropped included Food and Civil Supplies Minister Rao Birendra Singh and Minister for Chemicals and Fertilisers Virendra Patil — both of whom held full cabinet rank — and Ministers of State Chandra Sekhar Singh (textiles), Maragatham Chandra Sekhar (women and social welfare) and Bir Sen (environment and forests). Ashok Gehlot, Minister of State for Tourism and Civil Aviation, resigned two days ago to become president of the Rajasthan State Congress Party.

The new ministers with full cabinet rank are N.D. Tiwari, Baliram Bhagat and A.B.A. Ghani Khan Chaudhury. They held portfolios in previous Congress governments led by the late Indira Gandhi.

The ministers of state named were Mrs. Rajendra Kumari Bajpai, Mrs. Sushila Rohtagi, Sita Ram Kesari, Sukh Ram, Arun Singh, Dalvir Singh, Ajit Panja, Rajesh Pilot, Jagdish Taitler and M. Arunchalam.

The deputy ministers are Krishna Kumar, P. Chidambaram and Girdhar Gomango.

When he took office on December 31, Mr. Gandhi had announced that he would reshuffle his government team after watching the performance of each minister for some months.

While taking charge of defence, Mr. Gandhi brought in one of his closest aides, Arun Singh, as minister of state in charge of defence research and development organisation. Mr. Singh was hitherto Mr. Gandhi's parliamentary secretary without the rank of a minister.

Mr. Gandhi also shifted another close aide, Arun Nehru, minister of state for power, to the new Department of Internal Security, including police, rehabilitation and law and order.

The PRESS TRUST OF INDIA quoted the premier as saying after the swearing in ceremony that there might be another minor expansion of the cabinet after the Punjab elections being held today. About 10 million people in the Sikh-dominated north-western state were eligible to vote in polls beginning this morning for 115 seats in the local assembly and the seats for 13 representatives to the federal parliament.

Mr. Gandhi told PTI some places in his cabinet were still not filled.

The premier scrapped the rank of deputy minister when he formed his first cabinet after the winning general elections in December 1984. But he explained today that the gradation had been restored with the aim of helping to delegate responsibility.

Mr. Gandhi also explanied that some key ministries had been integrated to help development. An integrated Ministry of Transport under Bansi Lal would now deal with all important modes of transport including railways, surface transport and civil aviation.

Delhi: 'Major Reshuffle'

BK250752 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 25 Sep 85

[Text] In a major reshuffle the Council of Ministers at the center has been expanded with the induction of six new members. Fifteen of them [Cabinet members] were sworn in this morning by the president, Giani Zail Singh. Two cabinet ministers and four ministers of state have been dropped. The portfolios of a number of ministers have been changed. Work of several ministries and departments has also been readjusted.

Of the 15 new ministers sworn in, three are of the cabinet ranks. They are Mr N.D. Tiwari [former Uttar Pradesh chief minister], Mr A.B.A. Ghani Khan Chaudhury, and Mr B.R. Bhagat.

The ministers of state are Mrs Rajendra Kumari Bajpai, Mr Sita Ram Kesari, Mrs Sushila Rohatagi, Mr Sukh Ram, Mr Arun Singh, Mr Ajit Kumar Panja, Mr Dalvir Singh, Mr Jagdish Taitler, Mr Rajesh Pilot and Mr M. Arunachalam.

The deputy ministers are Mr Krishna Kumar and Mr C. Chidambaram. The third deputy minister Mr Giridhar Gumango could not be sworn in today.

Those dropped besides Mr Ashok Gehlot are Mr Virendra Patil and Rao Birendra Singh, cabinet ministers; and Mrs M. Chandra Shekar, Mr Chandra Shekhar Singh and Mr Bir Sen, all ministers of state.

New ministries for human resources development and program implementation and welfare have been constituted.

The Ministry of External Affairs will be under Mr B.R. Bhagat with Mr K.R. Narayanan as minister of state. Mr Narayanan is at present the minister of state for planning. Mr Ajit Kumar Panja will take over from him.

The Defense Ministry will now be under the prime minister with Mr Sukh Ram and Mr Arun Singh as ministers of state.

Mr Narasimha Rao takes over the newly-created Ministry of Human Resources Development with Mrs Sushila Rohatagi and Mrs Margaret Alava as ministers of state. Mr Ghani Khan Chaudhury will look after the new Ministry of Program Implementation. The other newly created ministry will look after welfare. It will be under Mrs Rajendra Kumari Bajpai, the minister of state.

The Home Ministry continues under Mr S.B. Chavan. The new minister of state in that ministry, Mr Arun Singh, will look after internal security.

The Department of Fertilizers has been given to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development under the charge of Mr Bhuta Singh. Mr Natwar Singh at present looking after steel will be the minister of state in the Agriculture Ministry in charge of fertilizers.

The minister of state for external affairs, Mr Khurshid Alam Khan, will now have independent charge of the Commerce Ministry. The former Uttar Pradesh chief minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari, gets the Industry Ministry which he had held earlier also.

The education minister, Mr K.C. Pant, will now look after the steel and mines; Mrs Ram Dulari Sinha, minister of state, moves over to this ministry from home affairs. Railways, surface transport and civil aviation have been combined under the Ministry of Transport under the overall charge of Mr Bansi Lal. Besides Mr Madhavrao Scindia the other two ministers of state in this ministry are Mr Rajesh Pilot and Mr Jagdish Taitler.

Mr Vasant Sathe will now be the minister of energy with Mr Arif Mohammed Khan as minister of state. The Department of Tourism has been transferred to the Parliamentary Affairs Ministry under Mr H.K.L. Bhagat. The Ministry of Works and Housing has been renamed the Ministry for Urban Development and continues under Mr Abdul Ghafoor. Mr K.P. Singh Deo will now be minister of state for food and civil supplies with independent charge.

The portfolio of personnel and administrative reforms held by him has been given to Mr Shivraj Patil, who will also continue to hold his earlier department and function under the overall charge of the prime minister.

Gandhi Comments on Reshuffle

BK250900 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 25 Sep 85

[Text] In informal remarks to newsmen after the swearing in ceremony [of new cabinet ministers], the prime minister said that the new council of ministers is much more balanced. It was difficult to have a complete balance in the existing one as it comprised only about 40 members. Mr Rajiv Gandhi said in regrouping the various ministries his effort is to rationalize their functioning and develop ideas and concepts in areas of vital importance in economic development.

In reply to a question, he said there are still some openings in his cabinet. I have not filled all the slots, he said. Asked why he has now appointed deputy ministers since he had declared earlier that he would not have them, the prime minister said there will now be more devolution of work to them. Earlier they did not have enough to do.

Continuing Reportage on Punjab Elections

Polling Begins, Security Tightened

BK250314 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Sep 85

[Excerpt] In Punjab, polling for the 13 Lok Sabha and 115 assembly seats has begun. Polling is taking place in all the 12,718 polling stations amidst fine weather. The supporters of candidates started putting up polling offices outside the polling booths since early this morning. AID [All India Radio] correspondents who visited some polling booths in Ropar and Patiala Districts this morning said that there was a lot of activity in all the polling stations.

Meanwhile, the security arrangements in the state have been further tightened. The governor, Mr Arjun Singh, personally checked the effectiveness of the arrangements in different parts of the state throughout last night.

Over 1 crore 7 lakh voters are expected to exercise their franchise to choose their representatives from among a total of 906 candidates. Of the 832 contestants for the assembly, the Congress-I has fielded 115 candidates, the Akali Dal 100, CPI 37, CPI-M 28, BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] 24, Janata 4, and Congress-S 1. There are 523 independents. The Congress-I is contesting all the 13 Lok Sabha seats, while the Akali Dal has put up candidates for 11 seats, the CPI, CPI-M and the BJP 3 each, and the Janata 2.

'Peaceful' Polling Reported

BK200905 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 25 Sep 85

[Text] Brisk and peaceful polling is reported in the Punjab elections. About 30 percent of the electorate had cast their votes till noon for the 115 assembly and 13 Lok Sabha seats today. Smooth polling is going on in all the polling stations amid fine weather. Reports say a large number of people started queuing

up before the polling booths right from the early morning. Men and women from rural and urban areas were seen coming to the polling stations to cast their votes. No untoward incident has been reported from any part of the state.

The All India Radio correspondent from Moga says heavy polling started in Faridkot District this morning. In the first 2 hours 240 voters exercised their franchise in Moga town and the turnout in the rural areas was beyond expectation. Our correspondent, who visited a number of polling stations in the Rupar District, found that 30 to 40 percent of voters had cast their votes in the first 4 hours. There was great enthusiasm among the voters. Heavy polling is report in most of the constituencies in Jullundur. In the assembly constituencies of Jullundur, where elections were countermanded due to the death of a candidate, the polling for the parliamentary seat was brisk and 30 percent of the votes were polled within the first 3 hours.

Polling in the by-elections in the two assembly seats of Roktak and Meham in Haryana started on a very brisk note this morning. Our correspondent says long queues were seen at several polling stations. About 45 percent of the voters had cast their votes by noon.

Further Details

HK250519 Hong Kong AFP in English 0440 GMT 25 Sep 85

[Text] Amritsar, India, Sept 25 (AFP) — Polling in Punjab's state elections opened today amidst unprecedented security. More than 150,000 members of India's security forces have been deployed to prevent any disturbances in the state, focal point of a violent campaign by Sikh militants seeking wider autonomy.

An hour after polling booths opened, voting tempo was picking up, election officials said. People in this major city could be seen waiting to cast their ballots. At stake in the voting — for which 10 million people are eligible — are 115 seats in the local assembly and the seats for 13 representatives to the central parliament in New Delhi. Polling booths are to be open between 8 am and 4 pm (0230-1030 GMT). The two main contenders in the election are Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) party and the Sikh Akali Dal Party. Militant factions of the Akali Dal have called for a boycott of the elections. The turn-out in the last election in 1980 was 63 percent. Observers believed that turnout in the current poll could be slightly lower.

Meanwhile police probed the deaths of two supporters of Mr Gandhi. Police said that the two Hindus died in front of the house of a Congress (I) candidate here. One police source said that the might have been poisoned or died after consuming bad liquor.

150 Arrested; Voting Favors Sikhs

HK250854 Hong Kong AFP in English 0802 GMT 25 Sep 85

[By Dilip Ganguly]

[Text] Amritsar, India, Sept 25 (AFP) — Akali Dal election agents claimed that early voting trends favoured the Sikh political party as hundreds queued here today to vote in crucial elections in this troubled northern state of Punjab.

The opening of the polls was preceded by the mysterious deaths of two supporters of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party, a round-up of 150 Sikh militants and an unprecedented security clampdown.

Police said that they had found the bodies of Vinod Kumar, 26, and Narinder Kumar, 27, late last night. Police said they believed that the two, who were working as election agents for a Congress (I) Party candidate, had been "done to death." They had either been poisoned or had died after drinking bad liquor.

The office secretary of the All India Sikh Student Federation, Gurdeep Singh, said that security forces had arrested at least 150 Sikh militants during a night-long state-wide operation last night. Mr Singh said since the security clampdown began on Friday at least 750 members of his members [as received] had been arrested. A state administration spokesman admitted that "precautionary" arrests had been made, but refused to confirm or deny the figures or to say when those arrested would be released.

Eyewitnesses said they had never seen the like of the security operation mounted for the elections. Some 150,000 men from police, paramilitary and commando units are involved. The eyewitnesses reported that security forces were guarding streets and polling booths. "The scene here reminds us of two wars India have [as received] fought against Pakistan... there are more policemen on the street than we have seen before," a resident, Darshan Singh, said.

The state governor, Arjun Singh, toured the state during the night to inspect various police stations and control rooms set up specially to monitor the security situation, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) news agency said.

The Congress (I) Party is pitted against the moderate faction of the Akali Dal in elections to fill the state assembly and Punjab's seats in the lower house of the federal parliament.

The government called the elections after signing an agreement with the moderate faction of the Akali Dal intended to end an often violent Sikh campaign for greater autonomy for this largely Sikh state.

Militant Sikhs have rejected the agreement and called for a boycott of the polls. A spokesman for the militant faction of the Akali Dal said that its leader, Joginder Singh, was expected to appear here this afternoon.

Akali Dal election agents said that voting trends this morning suggested support for the Akali Dal. But Congress (I) Party observers said they were not worried by the early trends. Said one: "It is premature to come to a conclusion... the trend will reverse."

Polling has yet to get into full swing. Election officials at one polling station in the walled district of Chandigarh, the state capital, said that only 30 of the ward's 1,049 voters had cast their

ballots in the first hour of polling. But experts said that the turnout would increase as the day passed.

In the past two days three girls have been killed in a series of bomb exploisions in the state. But so far today there have been no reports of violence.

The total number of voters in Punjab is 10.7 million, and ballots are being cast in 12,718 polling stations. More than 63,000 officials are working to supervise the polling.

At stake are 115 seats in the state assembly and 13 in the lower house of the federal parliament.

Strike in Tamil Nadu State Ends Without Incident
BK241639 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Sep 85

[Text] The 12-hour statewide bundh [strike] and mass fast in Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry ended at 1800 this evening. Normal life during the bundh came to a standstill with shops, educational institutions, state government offices and banks closed. Taxis and autos were off the road, and air and train and bus services were suspended. These services have resumed operation after 1800 with a new schedule.

The bundh was observed to express sympathy with the sufferings of Sri Lankan Tamils. The chief minister, Mr M.G. Ramachandran, ended the fast at Anna Samadhi [memorial] in Marina along with his frontline party leaders. The union minister of state for women and social welfare, Mrs Margatham Chandra Shekhar, observed the fast at the Gandhi statue in Marina. Reports say a large number of people participated in the mass fast in 25 towns in Tamil Nadu.

According to the police one person at Marina in Madras and another at Tiruvatiru attempted to commit self-immolation in protest against the happenings in Sri Lanka. They were saved by the timely intervention of the police. No untoward incident was reported from anywhere in the state. All major parties, barring the DMK, Tamil Nadu Kamraj Congress, Dravida Kazhagam and the Indian Union Muslim League, participated in the bundh.

Afghan Allegations on Khowst Attack Rejected

BK241529 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1513 GMT 24 Sep 85

[Text] The Pakistan Government has rejected the Kabul regime's 23 September protest in which they alleged that on the 6th, 7th and 8th of this month [dates as heard] Pakistani Armed Forces personnel entered Afghanistan and attacked the southern areas of Khowst.

The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office this evening and told that Pakistan rejects this protest. He was asked to apprise the Kabul regime to refrain from making such baseless and fabricated allegations. It was also made clear to him that these unfounded allegations only proves that they are attempting to blame Pakistan for incidents taking place inside Afghanistan.

Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Arrives 23 Sep

BK240510 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 24 Sep 85

[Text] Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Faruq Chowdhury arrived in Islamabad last night on a 2-day visit to Pakistan. Talking to newsmen at the airport, he said he has come to Pakistan as a special emissary of the Bangladesh president and brought a letter from him to President Mohammad Ziaul Haq. The letter, he said, contains an invitation for the forthcoming South Asian Regional Cooperation summit conference in Dhaka in December.

He said he will discuss matters relating to preparations for the summit conference with Pakistan's foreign secretary. They will also have a detailed exchange of views on the charter of the summit conference.

Meets With Junejo

BK241604 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 Sep 85

[Text] Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Mr Faruq A. Chowdhury called on Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo in Rawalpindi today. He conveyed to him a message of good wishes from President Hussein Mohammad Ershad and said President Ershad is looking forward to personally meeting the prime minister soon.

The prime minister told the Bangladesh foreign secretary to convey his message of good wishes to President Ershad and to assure him that Pakistan will fully cooperate with Bangladesh in making the first summit conference of the member countries of the South Asian Regional Cooperation in Dhaka a success.

As far as the question of bilateral relations is concerned, the prime minister expressed satisfaction at the existing cordial and friendly relations between the two countries.

Earlier, the Bangladesh foreign secretary met with the minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr Zain Noorani, in Islamabad. He told the minister of state about the summit meeting of the South Asian Regional Cooperation which will be held in December in Dhaka. He said Bangladesh is looking forward to receiving a Pakistani delegation to the summit.

Mr Zain Noorani said Pakistan is fully committed to the ideals and objectives of the South Asian Regional Cooperation. He said Pakistan hopes that the summit will lead to the strengthening of the organization and that it will be able to play an important role in South Asia.

Karachi Reports Shevardnadze-Yaqub Khan Meeting

BK250815 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 25 Sep 85

[Text] Pakistan Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and the Soviet foreign minister, Mr Shevardnadze, had a meeting in New York last night. According to ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN they stressed the need for an immediate solution of the Afghanistan problem through dialogue and supported the UN efforts to achieve this objective. Later, the Pakistan foreign minister described the talks as cordial. He said better communications have been established on a personal basis between us.

Mr Shevardnadze was assisted during the talks by the first deputy foreign minister and the Soviet ambassador to the United Nations, while Sahabzada Yaqub Khan was assisted by the Pakistan ambassador to the United Nations and Foreign Ministry officials.

Installation of USSR-Supplied Oil Rigs Delayed

GF201959 Lahore NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 18 Sep 85 p 1

[Text] 17 September (PPI) — It is impossible to install the two oil rigs purchased from the Soviet Union due to the lack of the necessary parts and equipment. This was stated by Dr Asad Khan, oil and natural resources minister, during a question hour at the National Assembly. Responding to a question from Mr Fazal Khan, Dr Asad Khan stated that the Oil and Gas Development Corporation is in contact with the Soviet firm Tekhnoeksport and all efforts are being made to procure the desired equipment. Dr Asad added that the agreement to purchase the two rigs was discussed in August-September 1983 and was finalized in January 1984.

The Soviet Union completed delivery of the rigs in November 1984. Concerning the delay in installing the rigs, Dr Asad Khan stated that certain instruments and parts were required, such as drill pipes, drill collars, etc. He added that one rig alone cost $3.3 million and that parts for the other rig were not bought due to lack of funds. Also, some accessories purchased with the Soviet rigs were usable for only 3 months of drilling. Therefore, due to the uncertain supply of spare parts, it was not considered appropriate to begin drilling the new wells. He added that the rigs installed at Nandpur and Panjpir have been checked, but the crew responsible for installing them is now busy constructing access roads and sheds in the area which are necessary for overall development.

He added: Drilling will start in coastal areas with the cooperation of a foreign firm next month. He said that 70 experimental wells have been dug in Sind and that from these, 9 new reserves of oil have been discovered.

Responding to another question by Dr Zameer Ahmed, Dr Asad said that Pakistan has purchased inexpensive goods from Kuwait as agreed upon. The Assembly member then asked for clarification on why international tenders for low prices were not invited instead of such a purchase from one country. Dr Asad explained that the equipment was purchased under a bilateral agreement and that when these rigs were purchased, the prices were the same on the international market. Hence, the question of buying them at a higher price did not arise as the agreement was signed after checking international prices.

MASHRIQ Comments on Afghanistan Issue

GF201320 Karachi MASHRIQ in Urdu 17 Sep 85, p 4

[Editorial: "Pakistan Cannot Be Intimidated"]

[Text] President General Ziaul Haq has stated that Pakistan considers Afghanistan's liberation struggle to be a liberation struggle of Pakistan as well because, as he said, what is happening in Afghanistan today may happen in Pakistan tomorrow. He added that the present strength of Soviet forces in Afghanistan does not pose a threat to Pakistan. However, he continued, if the Soviet forces grow to three hundred thousand or more, the situation can become dangerous for Pakistan.

He assured the nation that if Pakistan ever has to face the situation Afghanistan is facing now, there would still be no cause for alarm because after 6 years, the Soviet forces have not been able to bring a country with population of 15 million to its knees; Pakistan has a population of 90 million. If the Pakistani people show only half of the zeal being shown by the people of Afghanistan, he said, no power on earth can threaten Pakistan. Those who talk of a danger to Pakistan's territorial integrity have weak faith, he added. A majority of the Pakistani people are able to face any threat by their Islamic faith.

We think that those persons who frighten the Pakistani people by pointing out the situation in Afghanistan not only have weak faith, but are also supporting Soviet moves in Afghanistan. They are not in the least interested in the Afghan people's struggle for freedom. They want the Pakistan regime to recognize the Karmal regime; they want Pakistan to give up its principled stand on this issue. They forget that if Soviet control over Afghanistan is accepted today, then the same situation may occur in Pakistan tomorrow. For these reasons President Ziaul Haq considers Afghanistan's liberation struggle to be a liberation struggle for Pakistan as well.

Ironically, the Afghan mujahidin are not frightened by the dragon-shaped forces of the Soviet Union, yet some Pakistani politicians are trying to make the Pakistani nation afraid of the Soviet Union. First of all, we have no quarrel with the Soviet Union; but if some misfortune befalls Pakistan, the aggressor will not find us an easy morsel to swallow. The Pakistani people will fervently uphold their freedom. Moreover, they are also blessed with the support of some good friends. Therefore, Pakistan cannot be intimidated into giving up its principled stand on the question of Afghanistan.

The Soviet Union and the Karmal regime are doing their best to force Pakistan into holding direct talks with them, but Pakistan has declined the offer at every stage. Mr Zain Noorani, Pakistan's minister of state for foreign affairs, has justifiably stated that no talks would be held legitimizing the Karmal regime, only talks leading to a political solution to the problem.

Because of the pressure of the Afghan resistance movement and world public opinion the Soviet Union also favors such talks. Nevertheless, pro-Soviet elements in Pakistan are trying to make the people of Pakistan fear the danger of the Soviet boogeyman.

However, Pakistan has not succumbed to any foreign pressure so far and the entire world community supports Pakistan's stand. Therefore, if any effort is made to punish Pakistan for this principled stand, it must be understood that Pakistan will not be left alone; a majority of the world's nations will come to its aid.

BANGLADESH

Ershad Discusses 'Indoor Politics', Elections

BK231630 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 18 Sep 85 p 1

[Text] President H.M. Ershad announced on Tuesday the Government decision to withdraw restrictions on indoor politics from October first. He also announced the likelihood of national elections in March or April next year.

President Ershad did not specify a date for the commencement of open politics but linked it to the holding of presidential and parliamentary elections. Political activities were banned on March 1, 1985.

The president returned to the capital on Monday evening after attending the eight meeting of the Islamic Peace Committee. He spoke with newsmen at Bangobhavan on Tuesday.

President Ershad completely ruled out the possibility of holding elections before the SARC [South Asian Regional Cooperation] summit, which will be held in Dhaka in the first week of December. "We should not do anything that would jeopardise the SARC summit", he said. He said a firm date for holding presidential and parliamentary elections would be made after the SARC summit.

President Ershad repeated his earlier assertion that there are no Bangladeshi citizens in Assam, adding that it was an internal affair of India. The president said he anticipated the redressal of some bilateral problems with India within the coming two months. He said he was also confident that the Ganges water dispute with India would be solved before the SARC summit.

He said he was eagerly looking forward to the visit of the deputy prime minister and defence minister of Saudi Arabia. The visit of the Saudi minister, who wields enormous influence in his country's domestic politics, is likely to accelerate Saudi assistance to Bangladesh. President Ershad said the date of the visit of Saudi King Fahd to Dhaka would be fixed during the Saudi Deputy Prime Minister's coming trip to Dhaka.

BSS adds: Speaking about law and order situation, the president said it was the responsibility of every member of the society to help curb crimes including persecution of women which he said, was due to degeneration of values in the society.

He called for constructive criticism and asked the press to cooperate with the Government in curbing the social ills.

President Ershad called upon the national press to project the truth and stick to the objective reporting. In doing so, the newspapers should also see to it that any alarming situation was not created by their reports, he added. "Write the truth, criticise the Government constructively and not for politics' sake alone", he said.

President Ershad referred to the steps taken by the Government to stop social abuses and said his Government had started giving exemplary punishment like death sentence and life imprisonment to such offenders.

Stressing on maintainance of political stability for progress, he said in a problem ridden country like Bangladesh polities should have a positive tone to complement development efforts and continuation of smooth political process.

Police Arrest 6,000 in Crackdown on Crime

HK241032 Hong Kong AFP in English 0938 GMT 24 Sep 85

[Text] Dhaka, Sept 24 (AFP) — Police have arrested some 6,000 people in a crime clampdown here, press reports said today. The reports said 737 people were charged during the last six weeks with murder, [words indistinct], acid throwing and abduction, while 5,139 others were rounded up under preventive laws.

The Dhaka daily *NEW NATION* said that police action had been stepped up in the capital in a drive against increasing [words indistinct] and anti-social activity. At least 6,300 crimes were reported during the first eight months of 1985, the newspaper quoted authorities as saying.

Two police stations have been added to the existing 12 in this city patrolled by a force of 10,000 from 49 police posts and 12 road-side police boxes, the authorities said. Police have begun meeting with the public to improve relations and tackle the growing law and order problem.

Home Minister Major General Abdul Manan Siddiqui recently told reporters that the government was determined to wipe out anti-social elements, "however powerful and highly placed they may be."

SRI LANKA

Delhi Reports Militants' Attack on Police Station

BK241615 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Sep 85

[Text] In Sri Lanka, three Tamil militants have been killed and nine policemen were injured in a lorry-bomb attack on a police station in northern Jaffna District. The national security minister, Mr Lalith Athulathmudali, said that the militants drove the lorry loaded with explosives to the police station at Kilinochchi and parked it in front of the building.

The militants later are said to have attacked the station with mortar and rocket propelled grenades. The minister said three of them were killed in the counterattack by security forces.

Meanwhile, the Sri Lankan Government has announced the formation of a 3-member multi-racial committee to supervise the cease-fire between the security forces and the militants. The committee includes a retired supreme court judge, Mr Abdul Kadar; Mr M. Sivanagam, a retired UN official; and Godfrey Gunatilleke.

Joint Operations Chief Comments

HK250115 Hong Kong AFP in English 1351 GMT 24 Sep 85

[Excerpt] Colombo, Sept 24 (AFP) — Nine soldiers and police were wounded and three separatists killed when Tamil separatists attacked a northern police station, using a mixture of explosives and fuel equivalent to using napalm, the government said today. Meanwhile, a protest against killings of Sri Lankan Tamils today virtually paralysed life in the Jaffna Peninsula and India's Tamil Nadu State.

The general strike and last night's attack on the Kilinochchi police station came just two days before the scheduled arrival here of Indian Foreign Secretary Romesh Bhandari to discuss with Sri Lankan leaders the island's ethnic crisis and ceasefire between security forces and the militants.

Lieutenant General Cyril Ranatunge, chief of the Joint Operations command who returned from Kilinochchi today after a tour of the damaged police station, said that nine soldiers and policemen were wounded in the attack. Three separatists were also killed, he added. The battle between militants using mortars and rocket-propelled grenades and the police station defenders lasted six hours, Lt. Gen. Ranatunge said.

A video film taken at the scene about eight hours after the attack showed still-smouldering trees, charred vans and tractors and parts of a lorry, which the militants loaded with the explosive mixture and blew up during the attack, lying nearly 200 metres (yards) from the police station.

Gen. Ranatunge said that the wounded soldiers and policemen were burnt, three of them seriously, by the explosive mixture, which scorched trees nearly 50 metres (yards) from the police station.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali told newsmen that the militants had used what amounted to napalm. "The terrorists are now using weapons not normally used in civilised society," Mr. Athulathmudali said.

Gen. Ranatunge said a second vehicle, apparently carrying the same mix of fuel and explosives, was driven at the police station shortly after the first explosion, but the concentrated fire of those inside made the driver turn around. If the second truck had exploded, a large number of civilians would have been hit, the general said, as there is a large number of shops and houses close to the Kilinochchi police station.

Meanwhile, shops closed, students kept away from school and trnasport ground to a virtual halt in the Jaffna Peninsula as a demonstration organized by militant groups and supported mainly by students took hold, Jaffna residents said today. The demonstration was in solidarity with a strike launched in India's Tamil Nadu State in sympathy with Sri Lankan Tamils.

Mr. Athulathmudali said today that the government was committed to its unilateral announcement of an extended ceasefire, made over a week ago at the end of what some militants called a three-month ceasefire. He named a former Supreme Court Judge Abdul Kadar, a former public servant M. Sivanagam and the head of a non-governmental institute Godfrey Gunatilleke as a three-member multiracial group to monitor the ceasefire. The team is expected to begin work next week, the minister said.

The Eelam National Liberation Front (ENLF), grouping four major Sri Lankan Tamil militant organisations, has called for the ceasefire to be monitored by international observers.

Diplomatic sources said today that Mr. Bhandari during his one-day visit here Thursday is expected to brief Sri Lankan leaders on discussions in New Delhi last week between Indian officials and ENLF representatives. Talks between Colombo representatives and the militants in Bhutan aimed at resolving the ethnic crisis collapsed last month.

KYODO Reports Purchase of Soviet-Built Missiles

LD251420 Tehran IRNA in English 1340 GMT 25 Sep 85

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 25, IRNA — "Iran has purchased 130 ground-to-ground and ground-to-air missiles" reported KYODO news agency quoting the *YOMIURI SHIMBUN* and *NIHON KEIZAI* newspapers, Tuesday.

KYODO said the type of the missiles were not known but that they were Soviet built and purchased from a third party. "Iran is to receive several hundred more of these missiles" it said.

Seventy of the missiles are ground-to-ground and the rest are ground-to-air and could bring down MIG-23 and Mirage F-1 jet planes.

Iranian officials have not yet commented on the report.

Bomb Explosion in Tehran Kills 1, Injures Several

LD251113 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Sep 85

[Text] According to a report from the Central News Unit, coinciding with the ceremonies of Husayn's Tasu'a [the anniversary of the death of Imam Husayn on the following day, Ashura], this morning the agents of world arrogance exploded a bomb in Hashemi Street in Tehran. As the result of the explosion of 20 pounds of TNT which was placed inside a Peykan van, one person was martyred and a number of people were injured. Two of the injured are still in hospital but the rest of them were released after treatment.

Special Forces Trained for Hormuz Operations

GF241504 (Clandestine) Radio Najat-e Iran in Persian 0330 GMT 24 Sep 85

[Text] According to our military correspondent in Tehran, two naval commando units arrived in Tehran aboard four C-130 transport aircraft from southern Iranian ports and were stationed in Bagh-e Shah garrison on Saturday.

According to our correspondent, the transfer is directly connected with the regime's plan to close the Strait of Hormuz.

During the past 48 hours, special forces of the regime, including a commando suicide unit, a special Guards Corps team named "Shahin," a special ground forces unit, and some 3,000 mobilization members and 400 Kurdish peshmerga from the Barzani faction have been stationed in various garrisons in Tehran in order to undergo a special training course.

Apparently, the mullahs of Tehran plan to use these special units to implement their plan to close the Strait of Hormuz. A special operations headquarters for emergency operations in the Persian Gulf has been set up in the Lavizan Garrison. It is named "Hadi-114" and operates round-the-clock reviewing issues related to the Strait of Hormuz.

Khamene'i Delivers Address at IRGC Center

LD241154 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Sep 85

[Text] The first advanced course of operations of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] training center started its work this morning with ceremonies attended by President Khamene'i at IRGC Central Headquarters.

At these ceremonies IRGC Commander Mohsen Rezai'e presented a report on IRGC training activities and the corps' active presence on the battlefields of the imposed war, saying: Military sciences at the level of commanders of the Armed Forces and the Guards Corps, the practical experience of the last five years, and the use of Islamic tactics in order to study the fighting methods used in the early days of Islam are the three important elements taught in the new IRGC training courses.

Our correspondent reports that Mr Khamene'i, chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, then referred to the results of such courses, saying: Fortunately, the IRGC, as the fighting-revolutionary forces of the country, has become more aware of the importance of classical fighting sciences. One may be certain that as a result of these courses, the quality and effectiveness of the fighting capabilities of the Guards Corps will be greatly enhanced.

The Supreme Defense Council chairman also stressed the need for coordination between the Armed Forces and the Guards Corps to plan joint activities, exchange experiences of fighting methods and scientific knowledge, adding: The goal of both the Armed Forces and the IRGC is to protect the Islamic Republic and the revolution. To this end the Armed Forces and the Guards Corps should perform their duties side by side within the context of their responsibilities.

President Addresses IRGC-Morality Patrollers Parade

LD241734 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Sep 85

[Text] The joint morning parade of the members of the Joint Staff Command of Sarollah [public morality patrols] First Regions and of the Ministry of Islamic Revolution Guards Corps was held in the presence of Mr Khamene'i, chairman of the Supreme Defense Council this morning.

During the parade the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council first inspected the various units on the parade ground. Mohsen Rezai'e then spoke. Referring to the spirit of jihad and selflessness motivating Islam's combatants, he said: Despite the extensive plots hatched by world arrogance against the Islamic revolution, we declare to the world that we will never extend a hand of fealty to the foes of Islam. On the contrary, in order to safeguard the revolution and its achievements, we will make life very bitter for the enemies of Islam and will thereby bring about yet another 'Ashura and another Karbala.

During the ceremony Mr Khamene'i, president of the Republic, in a speech referring to the Husaynite movement and the Islamic revolution, said: Today, as on the Husaynite 'Ashura, all the

armed, blood-sucking and world-guzzling policies, armed with all super-modern military, political and propaganda weapons and equipment, aim to blot out the world-illuminating sun of the Islamic revolution. However, just as in Karbala swords and spears were incapable of blotting out the name of Husayn ibn 'Ali — may peace be upon him! — from contemporary memory, so today, also, if the power of world arrogance were to be increased by a hundredfold, it would not be able to reduce by one iota the world-illuminating rays of the sun of the Islamic revolution, which is nothing but a reflection of the light of Imam Husayn — may peace be upon him!

Kuwait Expels 56 Resident Nationals

LD221249 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Sep 85

[Text] The Kuwaiti Government has expelled another 56 Muslim Iranian resident workers over the past few days. According to the Central News Unit, these people have been under various physical and psychological tortures for 17-40 days and have lost their belongings to the Kuwaiti authorities. They arrived in several motor launches at Bushehr and Ganaveh ports, and were housed in a special camp for the expellees.

IAEA Adopts Proposal on Nuclear Plant Attacks

LD241713 Tehran IRNA in English 1704 GMT 24 Sep 85

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 24, IRNA — The 29th annual conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency Tuesday adopted a proposal by Iran to study the safeguarding of nuclear installations against military attacks. The proposal was adopted despite opposition by representatives of the United States who have opposed the plan for the past few years.

The head of Iran's atomic energy organization, Reza Amrollahi, told the conference that Iraq has attacked Iran's Bushehr nuclear plant three times in the past two years.

He said the attacks were made in a blatant violation of the resolutions of the agency and threatened the world peace and the health of human beings. He called on the agency to take urgent and appropriate action for halting Iraq's military attacks on the nuclear plant and condemn the aggressor.

Amrollahi said the nuclear plant is operational and subject to the agency's regular safeguard inspections but he added that the supplier of Iran's nuclear fuel, the American GA Technologies [as received], has refused to meet its obligation despite a two million dollar payment by Iran.

He said the Islamic Republic of Iran will continue to pursue the case at courts of law until "We receive what legally and rightfully belongs to us."

The week-long conference will discuss technical aspects of nuclear energy until Friday. The Iranian delegation at the conference has presented a 60-page document on Iraqi raids on the Bushehr power station.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI Views Visit of Syria's Khaddam

LD200339 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2119 GMT 19 Sep 85

[From the Press Review]

[Text] During the current week Mr 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, the Syrian vice-president, made a trip to Iran and conducted discussions with the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The *JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI* newspaper has written an article in connection with this trip, which you are about to hear:

This newspaper writes: The 1-day trip of Mr 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, the Syrian vice president, to the Islamic Republic of Iran including his meetings and discussions with the president of the state, the speaker of the Majlis and the prime minister has brought up the question: Was this trip is related at all to the recent developments in relations between Syrian and Jordan? This question is very basic if considered more from the standpoint that Mr Khaddam's trip took place simultaneously with negotiations being conducted between the prime ministers of Syria and Jordan in Saudi Arabi and followed the efforts of the special delegation of the Arab leaders' conference to bring about reconciliation between these two countries.

The Mr Khaddam's answer to reporters who asked about the objectives of his trip to Tehran stressed that this trip was also related to the issue of negotiations between Syria and Jordan. Khaddam said: The letter of the Syrian president to the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran concerned developments in the region.

At Mr Khaddam's departure from Mehrabad Airport, our country's foreign minister -- by referring to the recent negotiations between Syria and Jordan -- said that exchanges of opinion on this subject was one of the objectives of the Syrian vice president's trip to Tehran. Thus, he made it clear that efforts were being made to reconcile Syria and Jordan.

Therefore, another question can now be posed: Is Syria, in order to decide whether to be reconciled with Jordan or not, consulting with the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran, or, has Syria already made up its mind? Was the Syrian vice president's trip to the Islamic Republic of Iran merely of a discursive and explanatory nature? Perhaps we can clarify these questions if we take into consideration the point made in the talks which Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani had with Mr Khaddam.

The speaker of the Majlis, addressing Mr Khaddam, said: With the knowledge that we have about you and Syria's policy, we have no doubts that your policy in the steadfastness front will not change. We hope that one day the principal issues of the Arab and Islamic world will be solved and under those conditions we shall not refrain from cooperating and uniting with the world of Islam in every way.

It appears from this remark that Syria has made its decision and the speaker of the Majlis wanted to point out to the Syrian officials that the only way to solve the fundamental issues of the Arab and Islamic world is for Syria to uphold the steadfastness

front and not to compromise on the issue of Palestine. This remark means that the reconciliation of Syria with Jordan does not mean that Jordan's compromising stances on the issue of Palestine have been accepted by Syria.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani completed his warning with another sentence and said: Of course one can sense politically and understand that the United States and regional reactionaries are trying to undermine Syria's stance at every opportunity. They understand what negative effects this move will have on the morale and resistance of the revolutionary people of the world.

Thus, the stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the Palestine issue remains unchanged, that is, no compromise and continued struggle until the cancerous Zionist growth in the region is uprooted.

Syria can only preserve its special place in the Arab world by maintaining this same stance, and if possoble, it must struggle to tear Jordan away from the bosom of Zionism, albeit gradually and in this way prepare the ground for greater unity in the Arab and Islamic world.

This struggle, in addition to preserving Syria's present circumstances, will also make futile the United States' efforts to push the members of the steadfastness fronts toward a moderate stance; and it can also speed up the removal of the cancerous Zionist growth from the region.

At the same time one cannot provide a convincing reply to the question of whether the Jordanian regime would be ready to bring about any changes in its present stances toward the issue of Palestine.

Islamic Students Press for Musavi Second Term

LD231516 Tehran IRNA in English 1510 GMT 23 Sep 85

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 23, IRNA — The Islamic Association of Students sent an open letter Monday to the Majlis (Islamic Consultative Assembly) and said the Cabinet of Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi should continue its activities for a second term, Tehran newspapers reported Monday.

President Khamene'i is to nominate a candidate for the post of premiership soon and the Majlis has been debating the issue for the past week.

The association said the prime minister of the Islamic Republic should "fit the spirit of the Islamic revolution and be in line with the demands of the public and the revolutionary foundations".

The association represents Muslim university students throughout the country and is an active political organization. The open letter said only a young Muslim revolutionary who defends the oppressed classes ought to take the post.

It said that "in the past four years there has been unjust criticism of the government of Prime Minister Musavi" but despite the national problems that all governments face, the Cabinet has been a successful one.

Majlis Passes Article on Ministry of Public Health

LD241256 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Sep 85

[Text] In today's open session of the Majlis the amendment proposed by the Council of Guardians to the budgetary bill for the year 1364 [21 March 85-20 March 86] was discussed and approved.

In addition, the bill on the formation of the Ministry of Public Health, Treatment, and Medical Training was given its second reading. One of its articles was approved, and the discussion concerning the rest of the bill was left for the next session.

Article I of this bill says the following: In order to make proper and uniform use of the medical facilities of the country so as to make available public health, treatment, welfare, and medical research and training, and in the implementation of Articles 4, 12, and 13 of Statute 3 of the Constitution and that part of Statute 29 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran which refers to medical services and public health and welfare, from the date of the approval of this bill, the Ministry of Public Health, Treatment, and Medical Training, hereinafter known as the Ministry in this bill, will be formed.

Central Bank Governor Comments on Use of Deposits

GF210910 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 21 Sep 85

[Text] According to a report by the Central News Unit, some 400 billion rials of interest-free deposits belonging to the people are to be used in agricultural projects, to supply the essential needs of government employees, and for the needs of production units, in order to comply with the decision of the Monetary and Credit Council.

In revealing this news, Mohsen Nurbakhsh, the governor of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in an interview with our correspondent added: One of the powerful tools that the new banking law has put at the disposal of the banking system of the country is the use of interest-free bank deposits. We will try to give a positive response to popular support for this scheme by increasing the variety of prizes [given to depositors]. We will announce these prizes soon. Using the interest-free bank deposits which have been put at the disposal of the banking system, the Monetary and Credit Council recently approved some 400 billion rials to be put at the disposal of various consumers.

The Central Bank governor added: According to the council's decision, some 150 billion rials will be allocated to the agricultural sector and this will be passed to the farmers through the branches of the agricultural bank and organizations of the Ministry of Agriculture, such as the rural welfare organization and others. This money will be used to purchase implements, seeds, supplies, and other needs of the farmers.

As regards the essential needs of government employees, some 50 billion rials have been allocated for distribution among needy individuals through relevant organizations that will be intro-

duced to the banking system and the interest-free loan organization.

As regards production units and government companies, the council has appropriated 50 billion rials for them. Some 27 billion rials have also been allocated for village housing. He added: Thirty billion rials have also been allocated for those whose homes have been damaged during the bombing raids of the Iraqi regime.

In conclusion, the Central Bank governor said: In order to supply equipment to those who are facing capital problems but are able to work — and only lacking equipment — 80 billion rials have been allocated. Allocation efforts will begin from this date. He also stressed: All decisions taken on these issues will be passed to the banks for implementation very soon.

Iraqi Insurgents Destroy Baghdad Military Factory

GF250530 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 25 Sep 85

[Text] Iraqi Muslim revolutionaries have carried out a struggle operation in Al-Za'faraniyah in Baghdad during which they destroyed a military plant that produces oils. They killed seven Saddamists and wounded several others.

Reports indicate that in August 1985, the Martyr Abu Muhammad al-Musawi group placed 50 kg of TNT in the plant, which is located near Al-Rashid camp. The explosion took place at a time when several military trucks belonging to the ruling regime in Iraq had entered the plant. The plant was completely destroyed. Seven Saddamist officers and soldiers were killed, and several others were wounded. Fire burned in the plant for several hours. All machinery used in the manufacturing of oils was burned. In addition, several vehicles belonging to the regime were destroyed.

A spokesman for the Iraqi Muslim revolutionaries, following his announcement of this operation, asserted that the Iraqi Muslim revolutionaries are determined to continue their struggle operations until the Saddamist regime is toppled and an Islamic government is established.

The Martyr Abu Muhammad al-Musawi group carried out a suicide operation earlier in 1985 which inflicted severe losses on the installations of the Kirkuk oil refinery.

Tribal Forces To Participate in Land, Sea Maneuvers

LD221647 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 22 Sep 85

[Text] Chahbahar, Baluchistan Province, Sept. 22, IRNA — Three thousand members of Baluchi tribes are to participate in land and sea maneuvers here to mark the fifth anniversary of the Iraqi imposed war (War Week), it was announced Sunday.

A commander of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps said that three brigades of tribal forces would engage in sea maneuvers in the coastal waters of Shahid Beheshti Port in the Persian Gulf. The commander added that the land maneuvers would be held in the [words indistinct] well as light weapons are to be used to create a warlike atmosphere. The maneuvers are to demonstrate the spirit of union between Sunnis and Shi'ites in Iran, he said.

Reportage on Combat Operation in War With Iraq

Infiltration Operation

GF250952 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 25 Sep 85

[Text] On the ninth day of Hoseyn's anniversary, the Islamic forces carried out at dawn today an infiltration operation in the area between Naft-e Shah and Sumar. During the operation, they crossed the barriers placed by the enemy and attacked the positions of the forces of the Iraqi regime to a distance of 5 km at Hills 205 and 186. They inflicted no fewer than 100 killed among the enemy forces following close combat battles.

In a report from the battle front, IRNA says that a number of troops from the 2d Battalion of Brigade 505 of the 6th Division of the II Iraqi Corps were seen escaping from the battlefield after suffering severe losses and after all their positions were destroyed by the Islamic forces.

The operation also resulted in the destruction of a complete artillery battery, three tanks, two machinegun emplacements, several mortars, and three ammunition dumps belonging to the ruling Ba'thist-Zionist regime in Iraq. Damage was also sustained by an enemy communications tower. The report adds that the Islamic forces returned safely to base after carrying out the operation under cover of intensive artillery support fire.

Communique No 2,238

LD241622 Tehran IRNA in English 1609 GMT 24 sep 85

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 24, IRNA — Iran's Muslim combatants killed or wounded 20 Iraqi troops and destroyed 23 of their bunkers in the central front, said the Joint Staff Communique number 2238 Tuesday.

Reporting a summery of warfront operation in the past 24 hours the command said the combatants kept enemy vehicle columns under surveillance throughout the battle fronts.

In the northern front, Iraqi troops suffered casualties and lost five communication equipments as well as 36 pieces of military hardware when their positions came under Iranian fire, it said. The Muslim combatants halted the infiltration of enemy troops in the north and thwarted Iraqi air raids in the Gadar and Marivan regions, the command added. It said the artillery fire of the combatants killed and wounded a group of enemy troops in the area.

Reporting action from the southern war fronts, the command said the combatants launched a small scale operation in Chilat area and inflicted casualties and damages upon the enemy troops before returning to their bases. The combatants kept Iraqi vehicle movements as well as their engineering and patrol units under close surveillance in the area.

Iraqi long-range artillery fire damaged a number of houses in the port cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr on Monday.

Oil Well Capped

LD241832 Tehran IRNA in English 1805 GMT 24 Sep 85

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 24, IRNA — Details of capping the sixth Nowruz blazing oil well in the Persian Gulf, hit by Iraqi attack in March 1982, were explained by director of Continental Shelf Oil Company of Iran, Dr. Aghaei. and a group of the personnel who helped cap the oil well. Aghaei said that the sixth oil well of Nowruz was brought under control on September this year, after a 31-day effort in deep seawater. Some 6,000 barrels of oil spewed daily from the well, he said.

In the wake of Iraqi attack on Nowruz oil field in March 1982, the third, fifth, sixth and tenth oil wells were damaged. The third one was capped on September 18th 1983, the tenth on April 3rd 1984 and the fifth on May 4th 1985. Aghaei said that a unique technique was employed for capping the sixth well.

Earlier, in a cabinet session, minister of oil, Mohammad Gharazi announced that foreign contractors had estimated the expenses for capping the first oil well (Nowruz) at about dlrs. 20 million, whereas the four wells had been eventually capped with a combined expenditure of less than two million dollars.